AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification as follows:

Page 11, paragraph starting at line 23, has been amended as follows:

The backing metal 1 is a soft-steel sheet, an alloyed-steel sheet or its surface-treated sheet (shot-blasting, pickling, plating or the lie). Usually, the lining 2 entirely consists of the alloy having the inventive characterizing solid-solution structure. Ag, Sn and the like are supplied from the bulk 2a and concentrated in the layer 3 to form the hexagonal compound 4a. When the lining wears out further as compared with the condition shown in Fig. 1, Ag and Sn are supplied from a more inner portion of the bulk 2a and form anew concentrated layer 3. Excellent sliding properties can, therefore, be maintained for a long period of time. In order to realize such concentration and formation of the compound, the solute element(s) should be present in the interface and vicinity of the concentrated layer 3. The vicinity herein is related to the wear amount of the lining and the diffusion distance of Ag, Sn and the like but is from approximately 30 μm from the surface of the lining before use, provided that the maximum wear amount of the lining is 20 μm in the automotive bearings. Even if Ag and Sn during sliding and the like partly precipitate in portion 2b deeper than 30 μm from the lining surface before use, the performance of the inventive sliding bearing is not lowered.